



LOOK TO FUTURE, COLLINS URGES MOREHEAD IN SPEECH, GOVERNOR DOESN'T TALK OF RECENT TURMOIL AT UNIVERSITY



April 4, 1986 | Lexington Herald-Leader (KY)

Author: Bill Bergstrom Associated Press | Page: B1 | Section: CITY/STATE

541 Words

Gov. Martha Layne Collins, who intervened in January to end administrative turmoil at Morehead State University, told a spring Founders Day convocation at the university yesterday that she would now "leave to others the looking to the past."

Collins made no mention of her January request that the eight governor-appointed Morehead regents resign, the swearing-in of a new board March 4, or the administrative conflicts over university President Herb Reinhard's contract that led to the moves.

"It's a beautiful spring day. The sun is shining bright on our old

Kentucky home. This season is a time of hope, of rebirth, of looking to the future," she said during the school's 64th anniversary celebration.

Collins spoke of her efforts to increase funding for higher education and her commitment to Morehead and higher education in general.

"It used to be that a strong back and willing hands were enough to earn a living. That's not so today," she said.

Because it is in Eastern Kentucky, Morehead State has a special role, Collins told several hundred university officials, faculty members, students and others at the school's Button Auditorium.

"Your challenge is to reach out even more aggressively to the men and women who, unless they earn a GED, stand little chance of making a good living for their families," she said.

"Your challenge is to reach out to a region whose hopes for more and better jobs rest largely in better schools and in providing education for men and women who left school early."

Collins shook hands in the crowd outside before her helicopter flight to Frankfort. She said the choice of a new university president is "pretty much up to the board" and "they're going to take their time."

Reinhard, 54, who became president in July 1984, was refused a one-year contract extension by the former

board last fall, escalating administrative squabbles and leading to Collins' intervention.

He had drawn the fire of critics who said he acted too precipitously when, facing budget problems and a declining enrollment, he made rapid changes in academic departments and the administrative structure of the school.

On Monday, at the second meeting of the new board of regents, Reinhard said he would leave when his contract expired June 30.

"I feel this university is in capable hands for the future," Reinhard said in introducing the new board chairman, former Gov. Louie B. Nunn, at the convocation.

Collins and Nunn both received standing ovations before and after their speeches. Nunn said Collins had promised to support the new board but "she assured us that it was our responsibility, that we would not be interfered with."

The board, headed by Nunn and Vice Chairman Edward T. "Ned" Breathitt - another former governor who 20 years ago signed the bill into law that made Morehead a state university - has named a search committee for a new president, Nunn said after the convocation.

He said the committee would work "as expeditiously as possible while doing an adequate search. We're not going to rush into anything just to get somebody here."

"As far as I know there aren't any restrictions" on who may seek the post, Nunn said. And he said, "It will not be a political appointment."

Caption:

Photo by Kevin L. Goldy Governor Collins talks to crowd after speech at **Morehead State University**.
(MARTHA LAYNE COLLINS)